

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended and claims 15 and 16 are added. Thus, claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found at least in FIGS. 4-7C. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,980,018 (Taylor). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In particular, Taylor at least fails to disclose, "a mounting base that is movable forward and backward between a maintenance position and a retraction position," and "the wiper base moves toward the nozzle surface relative to the mounting base in order to bring the wiper into contact with the nozzle surface when the mounting base is at the maintenance position," as recited in claims 1 and 12, for at least the following two reasons.

First, the May 16 Office Action alleged that the wiper mounts 190 of Taylor are equivalent to the claimed "wiper base" and that the service station frame 46 is equivalent to the claimed "mounting base." However, Taylor discloses that the service station frame 46 includes a base member attached to the printer chassis 22 (C10/L45-49). Thus, the service station frame 46 is not movable forward and backward, as required by claims 1 and 12.

Second, the August 29 Advisory Action alleges pallet 120 of Taylor moves rearward to uncup the pens. However, if the pallet 120 is regarded as equivalent to the claimed mounting base, Taylor cannot disclose the claimed "wiper base."

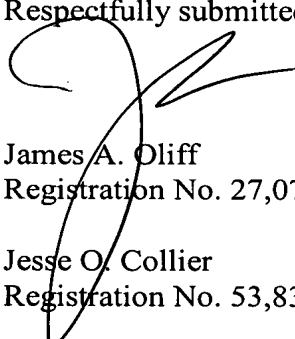
That is, wiper mounts 190 are secured to the pallet wiper support 148 (C15/L46), which is included in the pallet 120 (C12/L66-67). Importantly, because the wiper mounts 190 are secured to the pallet wiper support 148, they cannot be considered movable relative to the pallet 120, as required by claims 1 and 12.

Because Taylor at least fails to disclose, "a mounting base that is movable forward and backward between a maintenance position and a retraction position," and "the wiper base moves toward the nozzle surface relative to the mounting base in order to bring the wiper into contact with the nozzle surface when the mounting base is at the maintenance position," claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Taylor. Further, claims 2-11, 13, and 14 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 12 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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